

**Appl. No. 10/721,806
Amdt. dated March 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 30, 2004**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated December 30, 2004, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1, 2 and 6-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Manweiler et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,459,589); and 2) rejected claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manweiler.

With this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-7, 10, and 20. The midplane board (76) of Manweiler is secured to a center support (44) that is part of the chassis (10). See Manweiler Col. 3, Lines 58-61. The midplane board (76) is secured to the center support (44) by mounting screws (82, 84) that fix the position of the midplane board relative to chassis (10). See Manweiler Col. 4, Lines 64-66.

In an embodiment disclosed in the current application, a midplane board (46) is mounted to a drawer, for example, to the rear of a front drawer (28), which may be slidably engaged with a chassis (20). See Specification para. [0014] and [0020]. Because the midplane board (46) is not affixed to the chassis (10) the arrangement provides greater flexibility in assembling and upgrading the critical components.

Therefore, with respect to claims 1-9, claim 1 has been amended to claim an interface board mounted only to the first drawer. Because Manweiler does not teach an interface (or midplane) board mounted only to a drawer, Manweiler does not anticipate the scope of claim 1. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are thus also allowable over Manweiler.

With respect to claims 10-19, claim 10 has been amended to claim a midplane board affixed solely to the first drawer. Because Manweiler does not teach a midplane board affixed solely to a drawer, Manweiler does not anticipate the scope of claim 10. Claims 11-19 depend from claim 10 and are thus also allowable over Manweiler.

With respect to claims 20-24, claim 20 has been amended to claim a means for mounting an interface board to a drawer. Because Manweiler does not teach a midplane board that is mounted to a drawer, Manweiler does not

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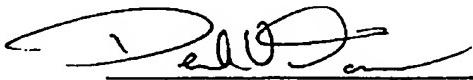
anticipate the scope of claim 20. Claims 21-24 depend from claim 20 and are thus also allowable over Manweiler.

With respect to claims 25-30, claim 25 specifically claims the step of attaching a midplane board to a first drawer. Manweiler does not teach attaching the midplane board to a drawer. Therefore, Manweiler does not anticipate the scope of claim 25. Claims 26-30 depend from claim 25 and are thus also allowable over Manweiler.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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